

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Gustafson Prattville, AL Chair	PT
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Vince Molyneux Mobile, AL Member	PTA
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Ron Bass Wedowee, AL Treasurer	Consumer Member
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Jay H. Segal Birmingham, AL Member	PT
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John Cornier Tuscaloosa, AL Secretary	PT
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Eric Dekle Mobile, AL Member	PT
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Mitzi Watson Headland, AL Member	PTA
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THE UPCOMING 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2011 Alabama legislative session will bring to culmination nearly three years of effort by your licensure board to update and modernize the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act. Our current law was written in 1975 and has undergone only minor changes, while the practice of physical therapy and the regulation of that practice have changed dramatically.

The legislative session begins March 1st, and at that time the 2011 Patient Interest and Access Act (PIAA) will be introduced. This bill is the result of efforts initiated by the licensure board and then joined early on by the Alabama Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. This bill will significantly further the interests of the public by bringing into existence a document which accomplishes many things:

- The document is more clearly and coherently organized which will facilitate better understanding and compliance by licensees.

- The document will create a more refined tool to regulate the practice of physical therapy. For instance it will give the board the ability to place restrictions on a licensee found guilty of violations while allowing them to continue to practice safely. Currently the Board's only option is to totally suspend or revoke the individual's license.

- It will establish an impaired practitioner program which will allow licensees to continue to practice safely while getting help. Currently the Board cannot require a licensee to enter into such a program.

- It will allow the public to access the services of a physical therapist without a physician referral, thereby eliminating unnecessary barriers to effective healthcare and lowering healthcare costs.

We ask each and every licensee to do whatever they can to support and advance this bill. To learn more and find out what you can do to help, go to www.accessptalabama.com. You will also be getting periodic e-mail notifications from the Board.

If you don't know who your legislators are, you can find out with a very simple two step process:

First, go to <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp> Enter your street address, and it will give you your nine digit zip code number.

Second, go to <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/> On the left hand side of the page, you can enter in your nine digit zip code; and it will tell you who your state representative and state senator are. At this same site, you can get contact information for your legislators so you can communicate with them and ask them to support the PIAA.

John Cormier, PT
Secretary
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

2010 BOARD MEMBER REAPPOINTED: ANDY GUSTAFSON, PT

Andy Gustafson, PT, was reappointed to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy for his second 5-year term, representing Congressional District 2 in the State. He has been licensed in Alabama since 1997 and is the owner of Orthopedic Rehabilitation and Training in Montgomery AL.

Gustafson was recently re-elected as Chair of the Board for a third year. His greatest accomplishment during his second term was the passing of an amendment to the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act in the 2010 Legislative Session. He is also instrumental in formulating the ground-work for a proposed Substance Abuse Program for physical therapy licensees in Alabama, hopefully in 2011.

The Board looks to Gustafson for leadership, as he has enabled it to be a very active Board that works diligently to get issues taken care of as expediently as possible. We are happy to have Gustafson on board until 2015.

Nettie Katharin Horner
Executive Director
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

2011 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

It's time again for the State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy to accept 2011 board member nominations by mail until April 2 and from the floor at the Alabama Physical Therapy Association's Spring Conference following the Annual Meeting on April 16, 2011. You will be receiving a letter in the mail by mid-March re: the nomination process. We plan to also e-mail the letter to those who have e-mail addresses on file.

Board members are appointed for five year terms which typically involve once a month meetings and occasional out-of-state travel to remain current on rules, regulations and trends pertaining to our profession. Appointed nominees will serve to protect the best interest of the public and licensees in the State of Alabama.

The Board member's role can prove to be one of the most exciting and rewarding and educational experiences of a physical therapist's or physical therapist assistant's career. The consumer member also plays a very important role on the board in that he/she represents John or Jane Q. Public and attempts to fulfill that role to the best of his/her ability.

We hope that as many professionals as possible will consider serving on the State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy to protect our health care consumers, our licensees and our profession.

Nettie Katharin Horner
Executive Director
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

IMPAIRED PRACTITIONER PROGRAM / FEE INCREASE

The Board of Physical Therapy has undertaken a project that has been done by other professional boards in our state. I am talking about a substance abuse program. The Board investigated the various programs used by other boards. It became apparent that what we wanted was an Impaired Practitioner Program for our licensees. This would include substance abuse, boundary issues and any other issue that could put the licensee's license in jeopardy. The Program will be confidential if a licensee seeks out the Program before it becomes an issue with their license. The Program can be entered either voluntarily by a licensee or by an order from the licensing board. The Program will bring a wealth of knowledge to the licensee for help through a difficult situation. The Program will be paid for in part by a fee increase. This fee increase will pay for a medical director and counselors for the Program. These individuals will monitor a licensee's progress through their specific program. The actual therapy sessions, drug testing, and any other parts of an individual's program will be paid for by the licensee themselves. The Board would welcome any input from our licensees regarding the implementation of the Wellness Program. We look forward to its implementation in approximately 9 months. This will bring us once again to the level of other Boards within the State of Alabama and give us another tool to help licensees.

Andy Gustafson, PT
Board Chair
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

ETHICS & LEGAL ISSUES

The ethics and legality of what we do as therapists is becoming more cloudy as the times progress. We as a Board are bound to protect the public with our current version of our Practice Act. Some offenses that the Board has begun to see include problems with computers such as in the home health setting. These are dealt with in the best possible way. However, some of the offenses that we are seeing include fraudulent billing, fraudulent visits, DUIs, boundary issues, and the forging of patient signatures are currently dealt with in our current practice act. The legality of these offenses is clear. It is against the law. It is against the law whether you have read it in the Practice Act or not. The ethics of these offenses can be dealt with in multiple ways. But they always come back to what would a panel of your professional peers think of what you have or will do? If you think they would think it was a violation of our Practice Act then it probably would. The ethics of professionals is at a higher level than non-professionals and this means all of the time.

Andy Gustafson, PT
Board Chair
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

THE BOARD IS BEING PRO-ACTIVE

The Physical Therapy Board is making every effort to be more pro-active in its responsibilities. As part of this process, they have done several things to encourage licensees to be more informed. The date of upcoming meetings is displayed on the home page of the web-site. The reason is that all Board meetings are open to licensees and the general public. To further assist in this effort, the Board's Agenda now includes 15 minutes for open discussion of questions or issues by the public, at the beginning of each meeting. We encourage your participation.

Another effort the Board has made to keep licensees informed of current issues is the posting of HOT TOPICS on their web-site. These items are written and approved by the Board at each meeting. The purpose is to make it easy and convenient for licensees to know what the Board is currently addressing that may result in some action. The actions the Board may pursue include a statutory change, rule/regulatory change, or a Declaratory Ruling. For example, the most recent posting was about increasing renewal fees for licensees. The Board is looking for input on this and all issues on which they deliberate.

The Board is initiating a new means of being more pro-active by engaging in Strategic Planning at each meeting. The first of many topics they will be addressing is Telehealth. They will be gathering information to understand the concept, define the terms, and look at appropriate regulatory language. The Board would appreciate any information you would like to share with the Board on these topics. Future Strategic Planning topics may include The Changing Environment and Its Effects on Licensure, Scope of Practice, Ethical Judgment, Changing PT and PTA Education, and any other trends that may have an effect on licensure.

Jay Segal, PT
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

ONLINE ISSUES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

During the 2010 renewal period, the Board Office was aware of numerous licensees who apparently found no wrong in marking a continuing education course that they did not take when they couldn't find their course listed for whatever reason. This was an intentional act, but most of the licensees who did this, would immediately call the office after they had marked the wrong course to say they did it because they couldn't find their course listed, evidently thinking that made it OK. It is **NOT** acceptable to give false information on the renewal form, online or paper. The proper procedure to follow when a course cannot be found is to stop the online procedure or the paper form and call the Board Office. More often than not, the course is listed under another sponsoring organization; and the issue can be quickly and safely resolved without doing something **WRONG**! We have tried to be patient and have only issued letters of admonition to the licensee's file without issuing a complaint. But this **MUST NOT** continue into the 2011 renewal cycle. Anyone who knowingly selects a course they did not take for CE will be responsible for a fine and possible remediation to insure it never happens again. Please **STOP, CALL** the Board Office, and **SOLVE THE PROBLEM** before it turns into a **BIGGER ISSUE**. The Board Office Staff is here to assist you, so give us the opportunity to do so.

Two members of the Board have accepted the responsibility of studying the continuing education process as it relates to license renewal and will hopefully arrive at possible solutions to streamline and simplify the process in the near future.

Nettie Katharin Horner
Executive Director
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy



**Please keep your address updated with the
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy**

ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

The Board has a three-tier system of discipline.

The lowest level of sanction involves the placing of a *letter of admonition* in a licensee's permanent file.

The intermediate level of sanction involves the licensee entering into a *guilty plea agreement* with the Board, either prior to or following a formal or informal hearing. A licensee who pleads guilty may be required to pay a fine, or be subjected to a period of license suspension, or both.

The highest level of sanction involves a finding of guilt after a *formal administrative hearing*. This level of sanction includes a fine and/or license suspension, and may include license revocation.

Disciplinary actions are matters of public record.

In addition to being included in a licensee's permanent file, disciplinary actions are also published in the Board's semi-annual newsletter and to the Healthcare Integrity Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).

Licensees who either plead guilty, or who are found guilty after either an informal or formal hearing, have their names and the nature of their discipline published in the Board's newsletter and filed with HIPDB.

With a letter of admonition, only the nature of the disciplinary action is published.

In keeping with this policy, the following is a list of the Board's disciplinary actions since the last newsletter:

Allegation: Allegations of Improper Touching
Disposition: 2-yr Stayed Suspension and Supervisory Agreement, \$4,000 Fine, Boundaries Course

Case # **Name**
 10-03-13 Kris Vanderwall, PT

Allegation: Therapist Failed Drug Screen
Disposition: Licensee pleaded guilty, paid \$500 fine and took Jurisprudence Course as Remediation.

Case # **Name**
 10-03-15 Debra H. Johnson, PT

Allegation: Therapist Falsified CE Information with Online Renewal
Disposition: Letter of Admonition to File

Case # **Name**
 10-10-29 PT
 12-12-32 PT
 10-12-33 PTA

Allegation: Practiced Physical Therapy w/Expired License
Disposition: Licensee pleaded Guilty and Paid \$500 Fine.

<u>Case #</u>	<u>Name</u>
11-01-01	Rhonda B. Kilpatrick, PT
11-01-02	Darrell R. Tull, PTA
11-01-03	John B. Ramsey, PT

February 2011 Board Meeting



Non-Renewed Physical Therapist Assistants

JENIFER R ACKLIN	113 ROLLING LEA PLACE, MADISON AL
HUGH D ADAMS III	10725 HUNTERS CT WEST, MOBILE AL
DONNA F ARMSTRONG	3250 MAIN ROAD, DOVER NJ
SHAWNA DYANN BLY	10 COUNTRY HILLS RD, MONTEVALLO AL
TERESA ANN BOATWRIGHT	524 MARSHEUTZ AVE SW, HUNTSVILLE AL
JAMIE WEST CODDINGTON	199 LEE RD 2076, PHENIX CITY AL
ROBYN M CRAWFORD	3350 CO RD 702, HANCEVILLE AL
BRENDA LEA DEMENT	6828 TOEPFER BLVD, PANAMA CITY FL
BRENDA G DIER	1193 WEST KESLER LANE, CHANDLER AZ
SONYA R DIXON	3308 SPRING VALLEY COURT, GREEN COVE SPRINGS FL
BRIANNE R DRINKARD	1673 RIVA RIDGE DR APT 3, MANSFIELD OH
RICHARD DANIEL DUBOSE	8860 LEA CT, MOBILE AL
DANA MARIE DUCKWORTH	521A PIPPIN RD, MERIDIAN MS
CAMILLE L DURHAM	61 CARLETON POINT LANE, WILSONVILLE AL
MARIA K FAULKNER	1312 KIM LANE SE, CULLMAN AL
RANDI B FISHER	9325 GREENLEAF DR, SPANISH FORT AL
MORRECUS B FOSTER	8980 CROSSWIND CIRCLE, MONTGOMERY AL
SARAH E FOSTER	4203 WALKER JOHNSON RD, LUTTS TN
TYLER M GARNER	2111 SANDERS CREEK DR, OPELIKA AL
ANDREA LEIGH GARRETT	702 THE TRACE W, JASPER AL
ANNA M GIBSON	11422 NORMANDY DR, SEMMES AL
DEBRA CAROLE HAMLETT	4841WHITTIER DR, OLD HICKORY TN
CHARLES E HILDRETH	1233 SADIE CIRCLE, PRATTVILLE AL
MARISSA JADE HULSEY	107 N HARRIS AVE, PIEDMONT AL
ELIZABETH HURSH	6736 CLEAR CREEK CIR, TRUSSVILLE AL
FRANCIS LEE JOLY JR	606 HUNTLEY APARTMENT DRIVE, PELHAM AL
JAMIE R KERSTIENS	213 RIDDLE LN, LORETTO TN
JESSICA ERIN KROTZER	1755 WITTINGTON PL #800, DALLAS TX
ANDREW G LANDRY	315 RICH AVE, BILOXI MS
STEPHEN DANIEL LEWIS II	1105 WHISPERING PINES ROAD #C8, DAPHNE AL
JOHN P MILLER	708 S ARKANSAS ST, WEST PLAINS MO
LATRICIA EUBANKS MIMBS	3260 CENTRAL FIRETOWER RD, LUCEDALE MS
MISTY ROBERTS MITCHELL	2050 LOFTON HALL RD, ARDMORE TN
NINA G MORROW	471 MIDFIELD RD, JOPPA AL
KARLA ELLIOTT PITTS	603 MEADOW DR NE, HANCEVILLE AL
DANIEL CHRISTOHER PONTAL	1215 10TH AVE, TUSCALOOSA AL
JOSHUA CLAY REESE	P O BOX 477, ROBELINE LA

ELIZABETH W RESHA	1231 RAIN TREE LN, ARAB AL
WENDY L REYNOLDS	392 HIGHLAND CHURCH ROAD, JOHNSON CITY TN
KATHLEEN L RODGERS	451 BARNES CROSSING RD, SALTILLO MS
ANTHONY B RUSS	5290 ARGYLL LANE, DOUGLASVILLE GA
PEGGY SELF	416 WET CAT RD, HAYDEN AL
GINGER L THOMPSON	1812 CASON TRAIL, MURFREESBORO TN
AMANDA L VENA FRO	1500 PRESTON ST, OPELIKA AL
BRANDYN S VEULEMAN-REESE	PO BOX 477, ROBELINE LA
DEANNA BANDINI WOOD	102 SERENITY CT, DOTHAN AL

Non-Renewed Physical Therapists

GENITA G ANGEL	3405 PADDLECREEK LN, NORTHPORT AL
SUSAN M BAKER	140 TAURUS DR, HARVEST AL
COURTNEY EVANS BARRETT	110 HAYESBURY COURT, PELHAM AL
DIANA E BATESON	35246 US HWY 19 N #310, PALM HARBOR FL
AMANDA SMITH BEASLEY	540 BROOKE WAY, TRUSSVILLE AL
LAURA BETH BRATTON	2524 RANDOLPH PLACE, BIRMINGHAM AL
JUSTIN PAUL BRILLANTE	243 BENTMOOR LANE, HELENA AL
PATRICK MICHAEL BRODY	2255 MAIDEN LANE SW, ROANOKE VA
JEAN M BUTTS	1930 CHANCELLOR RIDGE RD, PRATTVILLE AL
CASEY THOMAS CASANOVA	49687 HWY 16, FRANKLINTON LA
BRANDI BURRIS CASANOVA	49687 HWY 16, FRANKLINTON LA
APRIL GREEZE T CASTROMAYOR	11877 GARRISON DR, RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA
STEVEN THOMAS CHENOWETH	2963 SOUTH FLETCHER AVE, FERNANDINA BCH FL
LEANNE R CHURCH	335 NEW HOPE MOUNTAIN RD, INDIAN SPRINGS AL
VICTORIA MOORE CRIDER	PO BOX 172, COLBERT GA
ROBERT B DALE	826 BROOKE STONE DRIVE, SODDY DAISY TN
FRANK G DANIEL	2748 COPPER REEF DR, NAVARRE FL
KESIA DANNER-BOWMAN	2898 S ELDON AVE, SPRINGFIELD MO
AMY R DAVIS	3435 PLANTATION CT, MOBILE AL
CRISTIN A DAVIS	119 CREEKE LANE, ENTERPRISE AL
BETHANY MERKEL ENGL	1501 KNOLLWOOD DR, MOBILE AL
JESSICA L FERRIS	4 SHALOM PLACE, COLUMBUS GA
DAVID B FIELD	3950 PELHAM DR, MOBILE AL
KELLI C FORD	383 LAMBTON STREET, FAIRHOPE AL
REBECCA B FOSTER	223 WOODCLEFT RD, LOUISVILLE KY

TIMOTHY B FOSTER	223 WOODCLEFT RD, LOUISVILLE KY
BILL GILL	9983 SPRINGFIELD CT, MOBILE AL
THOMAS F HENDRICKS	8901 MOORE RD, COLUMBUS GA
CINDY W HERRING	3705 TURKEY RUN, JASPER AL
MICHAEL JEREMIAH HILL	2803 56TH STREET, MERIDIAN MS
ROBERT F HOPKINS JR	2919 FLEETWOOD DRIVE, COLUMBUS GA
HEIDI A HORCHEN	3065 HOLLAND RD, NEWTON AL
ROGER D IBURG	19 CAMELIA ST, GULF BREEZE FL
DANIEL JACK II	1185 TO LANEI DR, STONE MOUNTAIN GA
JURIS A JESIFERS	3891 RIVER ROAD, MANCHESTER GA
LISA MARIE JOHNSON	15856 33RD AVE NE, LAKE FOREST PARK WA
ELIZABETH T KAVANAGH	7691 CAMERON COURT, MOBILE AL
CHRISTINA RENEE KILBORN	1800 LINKS BLVD 6104, TUSCALOOSA AL
TARA LANSER	1225 GRACE DR APT C, SYCAMORE IL
ALBERT L MALOY	274 NW HWY MM, URICH MO
AMY MARGULIES	1983 HILBROOKE CIRCLE, AUBURN AL
JOSEPH T MCDANIEL	4773 COTTONWOOD RD, DOTHAN AL
MELISSA PITCOCK MCELROY	1223 REGAL AVENUE, BIRMINGHAM AL
ELLIE MEYROWITZ	2717 HEATHER DR, EAST LANSING MI
JULIE M MILLER	1571 ROLLING HILLS DR, PRATTVILLE AL
JENNIFER ALEAN MOODY	1400 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, DURHAM NC
ERIC A NEAL	20500 OSMUS, LIVONIA MI
CAROL S NOTAR	1301 ANDOVER WAY, JACKSONVILLE AL
TARA S PEARCE	1037 52ND PLACE SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM AL
MISTY B POWELL	2039 CHESTNUT RD, BIRMINGHAM AL
KATHRYN D PRICE	809 OLIVIA AVE SE, HUNTSVILLE AL
KRISTIN ROBBINS PRITCHARD	904 TALL PINES LANE, HOOVER AL
CHARLES W RICKARD	116 GRACE DRIVE, FLORENCE AL
KATIE ANN ROBUCK	526 EDGECREST CIR, HOMEWOOD AL
MELISSA M SEXTON	19239 WEST MUIRFIELD DR., BATON ROUGE LA
ROBERT L SHOEMAKE	1812 SHOAL RUN TRL, BIRMINGHAM AL
TONYA NICOLE SMILEY	3014 LAUREN PARC RD, DECAUTER GA
ANNE J SOLUJICH	42 HANKINS RD, EAST WINDSOR NJ
JOEL B STENSLIE	6157 BRISTOL BLVD, COLUMBUS GA
CARL LEROY THOMAS	15312 FEATHERCHASE DR, CHESTERFIELD VA
JOHN K THOMPSON	2122 SHARON LANE, HOOVER AL
CHRISTOPHER S THROCKMORTON	1010 PARKWOOD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM AL
PRISCILLA A TUCKER	103 BLUEBIRD DR, DOTHAN AL
BRITTANIE Y UTECHT	303 6TH ST. SW, FORT PAYNE AL

HARVEY VELASQUEZ
M CHAD WAITS
ROBIN D WASHINGTON
HOLLY WHALEN
JOSHUA THOMAS WHITNEY
JAMES B WILLIAMSON
RICHARD MARK DAVID WILSON
CHERYL H WOOD
KAHARI TAMON WOOD
STEPHEN C YOUNG
DENISE BERGERON YOUNG

5241 JOG LANE, DELRAY BEACH FL
7704 S 74 LANE, LAWEEN AZ
313 BRIDLEBROOK BLVD, PIKE ROAD AL
4253 N GALE RD, DAVISON MI
215 SILVERWOOD TRAIL, COLUMBIA SC
5750 KRISTY CREEK CV, ARLINGTON TN
10832 YORKWOOD ST, DULUTH GA
741 ELLWOOD AVENUE, ORLANDO FL
2531 SW FONDURA RD, PORT SAINT LUCIE FL
2000 LANCASTER DRIVE, COLUMBUS GA
1095 LAURIAN PARK DRIVE, ROSWELL GA